(a) the production of natural gas during the last three years;

(b) whether the allocation of 0.4 MMCMD of gas from December 2002 and 0.2 MMCMD of gas from March, 2003 to power stations of Gujarat was considered by Government;

(c) if so, the reasons for not making the allocations; and

(d) by when the gas is to be allocated as demaded by Government of Gujarat considering the importance of Pipavav Power Project and shortage of power in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Gas production in the country during the last 3 years i.e. 2000-01 to 2002-03 was as under:—

(Billion Cubic Metre)

2000-01	-	29.332
2001-02	-	29.621
2002-03	-	31.251

(b) and (c) Currently, as against the total allocation of around 120 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) of natural gas, the supplies have been only around 65 MMSCMD. Therefore, it is not possible to consider fresh requests for allocation of natural gas at present.

(d) Revised Development Plan of Tapti field has not yet been approved by the Operating Committee of the field, which comprises representatives of the companies constituting the Joint Venture. Gas supplies for Pipavav Power Project will be firmed up after Revised Development Plan of Tapti field is agreed upon by the Operating Committee and approved by the Management Committee.

Delay in phasing out subsidies

2945. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are facing problems in phasing out subsidies on kerosene and LPG;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in phasing out subsidies on these products; and

(d) by when Government propose to phase out subsidies on the above items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) It has been decided to phase out subsidy on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG in three to five years effective 01.04.2002.

Acquisition of Gas fields in Saudi Arabia

2946. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Videsh propose to acquire a gas field in Saudi Arabia;

(b) if so, the mode of transportation contemplated; and

(c) by when the project will commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) As of date there is no proposal to acquire gas field in Saudi Arabia by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) or Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC). However, recently he Saudi Arabian Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources has indicated to offer, in the first round, 3 gas exploration blocks for foreign participation, through open bidding. The data on the blocks would be shown by the Saudi authorities to companies which qualify as per the Saudi assessment.

Supply of Kerosene to Madhya Pradesh

†2947. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the formation of Chhattisgarh allocation of kerosene 5il to Madhya Pradesh has continuously declined;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.